

East Bellevue Community Council
Summary Minutes of Special Meeting

February 3, 2004
6:30 PM

Lake Hills Community Clubhouse
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Chair Bell, Councilmembers Eder, Keeffe, Seal, and Wiechmann

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the East Bellevue Community Council was called to order at 6:30 PM with Chair Bell presiding. Chair Bell led the flag salute.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll was called by the Deputy City Clerk. All Councilmembers were present. Ms. Wiechmann arrived at 6:39 PM.

3. COMMUNICATIONS – WRITTEN AND ORAL None.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Eder requested the following agenda additions:

- 10(a) Park Department Items;
- 10(b) Legal Training;
- 11(a) Sunset Village Shopping Center Conditional Use Permit;
- 11(b) 156th Sidewalk Project;
- 11(c) SE 28th Street.

Mr. Keeffe moved the approval of the February 3, 2004 regular meeting agenda as modified. Mr. Eder seconded the motion which carried with a vote of 4-0.

5. COURTESY PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. RESOLUTIONS:

- (a) Resolution No. 469 – Election of Officers
 - 1. Chair
 - 2. Vice Chair
 - 3. Alternate Vice Chair

Chair Bell opened nominations for the position of Chair for the year 2004.

Mr. Eder nominated Mr. Bell.

Chair Bell called for additional nominations.

Hearing none, Mr. Keeffe moved nominations be closed. Mr. Seal seconded the motion which carried with a vote of 5-0.

Chair Bell opened nominations for the position of Vice Chair for the year 2004.

Mr. Seal nominated Mr. Keeffe.

Chair Bell called for additional nominations.

Hearing none, Mr. Keeffe moved to close nominations. Mr. Eder seconded the motion which carried with a vote of 5-0.

Chair Bell opened nominations for the position of Alternate Vice Chair for the year 2004.

Mr. Keeffe nominated Mr. Seal.

Chair Bell called for additional nominations.

Hearing none, Mr. Keeffe moved that nominations be closed. Mr. Eder seconded the motion which carried with a vote of 5-0.

The slate of nominated Officers are:

- Mr. Bell for the position of Chair;
- Mr. Keeffe for the position of Vice Chair; and
- Mr. Seal for the position of Alternate Vice Chair

Mr. Keeffe moved approval of Resolution 469 with the above slate of Officers. Ms. Wiechmann seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

7. REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Claudia Balducci, Bellevue City Councilmember, introduced herself to the Community Council as both a constituent and City elected official. She provided the Community Council with a short list of upcoming City Council work initiatives, including the 2005-2006 biannual budget; the seven year Comprehensive Plan update process; the new City Hall building; and, a new round of neighborhood enhancement projects and neighborhood investment strategies. City Councilmember Balducci noted City Council's intention to establish rotating informal assignments for Council as a point of contact for specific neighborhoods within the City. The purpose of creating this new role is primarily to increase Council's ability to uniquely connect with neighborhood concerns and provide more personal attention. She reported her involvement with the West Lake Sammamish Parkway Project and the Factoria Area Transportation Study.

Mr. Keeffe welcomed Councilmember Balducci. He reminded Ms. Balducci of the current economic environment, urging caution in the purchasing of new City Hall furniture. He recounted past City use of otherwise earmarked funds for the purchase of furniture for the Public Works floor in old City Hall. It was determined by the State Auditor that those funds were not available for such use and required the City to return those dollars. Mr. Keeffe recommended that City Council familiarize themselves with what happened back then and prevent it from ever happening again. Responding, Ms. Balducci stated that City Council has instructed staff to

provide a higher level of detail than has been the past practice in regards to the New City Building. She expects that there will be extra meetings scheduled and noticed specifically on the topic of the New City Hall. She noted, a key thing to remember, every month that this project can be completed ahead of schedule represents a savings of \$500,000 for the City in expenses. Ms. Balducci welcomed Community Council's input during this process.

Mr. Seal cautioned that City Council take special care in contracting to assure adequate provision for the project's needs to limit costly change orders.

Ms. Balducci stated that the City is using the General Contractor Construction Manager process. This process is state sanctioned and allows the City to identify the contractor in advance so that the City can work with the contractor to detail the project and come up with the maximum allowable construction cost.

Mr. Eder stated that off and on through the years there has been talk about Highway 605. He asked if this project was dead or is it a possibility in the future? Responding, Ms. Balducci stated that she had not heard any serious talk regarding building Highway 605.

Chair Bell extended his congratulations on City Councilmember Balducci's election. He reminded Ms. Balducci of the West Lake Hills Citizen Advisory Committee's recommendations, stating the Committee's shopping list encompasses many of the desires of area residents. High on their list was the community's desire to continue the collector arterial project of 140th to 145th Place. However, due to budget limitations that hit just prior to the purchase of the new city building, the desired connectivity did not move forward. The good news is that a number of smaller projects like the sidewalks along 156th south from Lake Hills and spot improvements to the other sidewalks in the area are being accomplished. He felt that Ms. Balducci's presence on the City Council was good for the Lake Hills' residents, and, would help keep many of these advisory recommendations as a high priority for follow-through. He noted that the Community Council is expecting to be taking up the proposed rezone of the Kelsey Creek Shopping Center in the coming year.

Ms. Balducci stated that the citizen advisory committee process used with the neighborhood investment strategy was a positive thing, bringing together so many people from the community, that the City Council is discussing bringing that group back together again to do a recap or state-of-the-project examining what can realistically be accomplished with current funding; what still needs to be done; and, what other funding options might exist. She stated the importance of this effort.

Councilmember Wiechmann added her congratulations to Councilmember Balducci.

8. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS** None.

9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(a) Parks Department Items

Mr. Eder requested the status of past Community Council petitions for improvements to the Robinswood Park pond.

Chair Bell responded that the Community Council communicated concerns to the Parks Department regarding the health of the pond. He stated the response from the Parks Department indicated improvement to the pond would be very expensive, but, that the City continues to maintain the area surrounding the pond. The Community Council's next correspondence suggested, if the opportunity arose, the use of developer mitigation transfer to accomplish rehabilitation. He explained where such mitigation transfer had occurred in the past from a Lake Bellevue development to the wetlands along 148th.

Chair Bell briefly stated the Community Council had sent an inquiry as to when an update to the Robinswood Park Master Plan might happen. The Parks Department responded that it was not planning any major changes to Robinswood Park that would require a master plan update.

Mr. Eder next inquired as to a response to the Community Council's suggestions regarding park amenities, including the addition of a bandstand at suitable park sites and parking on the far side of the Lake Hills Library for the Lake Hills Greenbelt. There was Council consensus to send a follow-up letter regarding the status of those ideas.

(b) Legal Training

In response to Mr. Eder, Chair Bell explained the difference between an 'open public meeting' and 'closed meeting'.

(c) Median Planting from 148th west to 140th

Mr. Keefe reported on the Parks Department response related to median plantings along Main Street from 148th west to 140th, stating they have no monies for digging out all of the asphalt roadbed and sub-bed within the medians. He thanked the City for the replanting that was accomplished, but, would recommend that the Community Council send a second letter acknowledging the lack of funds for total median restoration and requesting the trees be replanted in the existing tree pits. There was Council consensus.

11. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Conditional Use Permit Application of Sunset Village Shopping Center

Mr. Eder suggested that this was an opportunity for the Community Council to go on record stating they had no objections to the relocation of Michael's Toyota per se, but that there was objection to the loss of retail space. Retention of retail space is a Comprehensive Plan policy goal. He stated the Sunset Village Shopping Center is located on nearly twenty acres and that he

would think a site that size could support both the auto dealership and retail to fulfill the needs of area residents.

Mr. Keeffe concurred.

Chair Bell provided a brief history, stating, just a few years back, the City Council placed a high priority on redeveloping neighborhood shopping centers. They initiated a study that identified five neighborhood centers, two of which are within the East Bellevue Community Council area. Among those identified was the Sunset Village Shopping Center. At the time, the Sunset Village property owners were not interested in participating in the redevelopment study. He concluded, stating he would support an advisory letter.

There was Council consensus to send an advisory memorandum to the staff project manager.

(b) Sidewalks on 156th Street

Mr. Eder questioned the appropriateness of beginning work on this project prior to the appeal deadline. He felt that the relocation of utility poles is premature.

Chair Bell, by way of information, stated that this was one of the recommendations of the West Lake Hills Citizen Advisory Committee. The sidewalk on 156th, going north from the Lake Hills Shopping Center, is very narrow. And, to complicate it, there are utility poles in the middle of the walkway making passage very difficult. The recommendation was to improve those sidewalks.

Mr. Eder stated he had no objections to the project, only that it commenced prior to its going through the entire approval process.

Chair Bell stated that the project is funded by the City, carried out by the Transportation Department and done within the right-of-way and easement for the City of Bellevue. He did not believe any other approval was needed. The utility company is obligated to place the utility poles where the City indicates, and, off of the sidewalk seems like a good idea.

(c) SE 28th Street Plans

In response to Mr. Eder's inquiry about the activity at SE 28th, Mr. Keeffe stated that the entrance to Bellevue Community College is going to be opened there.

Chair Bell provided a brief review of the project history.

12. CONTINUED COMMUNICATION:

Bart Goft, 421 155th Place SE, stated he was pleased to see a member of the City Council attending tonight. Mr. Goft, in reference to the relocation of utility poles on 156th Street, stated

in addition he would like to see some parking restrictions on that roadway. He next noted the quick response by staff in replacing a faulty street lamp at the corner of 155th Place and SE 4th .

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION None.

14. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(a) January 13, 2004 East Bellevue Community Council Summary Minutes

Mr. Seal moved approval of the January 13, 2004 East Bellevue Community Council Summary Minutes. Mr. Keefe seconded the motion which carried with a vote of 5-0.

(b) January 14, 2004 East Bellevue Community Council Summary Minutes

Mr. Keefe moved approval of the January 14, 2004 East Bellevue Community Council Summary Minutes. Mr. Seal seconded the motion which carried with a vote of 5-0.

(c) January 15, 2004 East Bellevue Community Council Summary Minutes

Mr. Keefe moved approval of the January 15, 2004 East Bellevue Community Council Summary Minutes. Mr. Eder seconded the motion which carried with a vote of 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Keefe moved adjournment. Mr. Eder seconded the motion, which carried 5-0. The meeting of February 3, 2004 adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Submitted by:

Michelle Murphy, CMC
Deputy City Clerk